

10/26/00
100360
PTO
10/26/00
U.S. PRO
10/26/00
09/695988

UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL

(Only for new nonprovisional applications
under 37 CFR 1.53(b))

Check Box, if applicable [] Duplicate

Attorney Docket No.	001360	Total Pages	
First Named Inventor or Application Identifier			
Wataru TANAKA, Ikki TATSUKAMI and Takashi IIJIMA			
Express Mail Label No.			

APPLICATION ELEMENTS FOR:
**SHOCK ABSORBING APPARATUS FOR INTERNAL
COMPONENT ASSEMBLED WITHIN ELECTRONIC
APPARATUS**

ADDRESS TO: Director of Patents and Trademarks
BOX PATENT APPLICATIONS
Washington, D.C. 20231

1. [XX] Fee Transmittal Form (Incorporated within this form)
(Submit an original and a duplicate for fee processing)
2. [XX] Specification Total Pages [16]
3. [XX] Drawing(s) (35 USC 113) Total Sheets [7]
4. [XX] Oath or Declaration Total Pages [5]
 - a. [XX] Newly executed (original)
 - b. [] Copy from prior application (37 CFR 1.63(d))
(for continuation/divisional with Box 17 completed).
 - i. [] Deletion of Inventor(s)
Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in prior application,
see 37 CFR 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).
5. [] Incorporation by reference (useable if box 4b is checked)
The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which a copy of the oath or declaration is supplied under
Box 4b, is considered as being part of the disclosure of the accompanying application and is hereby
incorporated by reference therein.
6. [] Microfiche Computer Program (Appendix)
7. [] Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission (if applicable, all necessary)
 - a. [] Computer Readable Copy
 - b. [] Paper Copy (identical to computer copy)
 - c. [] Statement Verifying identity of above copies
8. [XX] Assignment Papers (cover sheet and document(s))
9. [] 37 CFR 3.73(b) Statement (when there is an assignee) [XX] Power of Attorney

ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS

8. [XX] Assignment Papers (cover sheet and document(s))
9. [] 37 CFR 3.73(b) Statement (when there is an assignee) [XX] Power of Attorney

UTILITY PATENT
APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL
(Only for new nonprovisional applications
under 37 CFR 1.53(b))

Attorney Docket No.	001360
First Named Inventor or Application Identifier	
Wataru TANAKA, Ikki TATSUKAMI and Takashi IIJIMA	
PAGE 2 OF 3	

10. [] English translation Document (if applicable)

11. [XX] Information Disclosure Statement [XX] Copies of IDS Citations (PTO-1449 w/3 refs.)

12. [] Preliminary Amendment

13. [XX] Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503)

14. [] Small Entity Status is claimed.

15. [XX] Claim for Convention Priority [1] Certified copy of Priority Document

a. Priority of _____ application no. _____ filed on _____ is claimed under 35 USC 119.
The certified copies/copy have/has been filed in prior application Serial No. _____.
(For Continuing Applications, if applicable).

16. [] Other _____

17. If a CONTINUING APPLICATION, check appropriate box and supply the requisite information:
[] Continuation [] Division [] Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application no. ____/____

FEE TRANSMITTAL	Number Filed	Number Extra	Rate	Basic Fee \$710.00
The filing fee is calculated below				
Total Claims	9 - 20		x \$18.00	
Independent Claims	3 - 3		x \$80.00	
Multiple Dependent Claims				\$270.00
Reduction by 1/2 for small entity				Basic Filing Fee 710.00
Fee for recording enclosed Assignment				\$40.00 40.00
TOTAL				\$750.00

UTILITY PATENT
APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL
(Only for new nonprovisional applications
under 37 CFR 1.53(b))

Attorney Docket No. **001360**

First Named Inventor or Application Identifier

**Wataru TANAKA, Ikki TATSUKAMI and
Takashi IIJIMA**

PAGE 3 OF 3

A check in the amount of \$750.00 is enclosed to cover the filing fee of \$710.00 and the assignment recordation fee of \$40.00.

Please charge our Deposit Account No. **01-2340** in the total amount of _____ to cover the filing fee and the _____ assignment recordation fee. A duplicate of this sheet is attached.

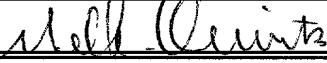
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any additional filing fees required under 37 CFR 1.16 or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. **01-2340**. A duplicate of this sheet is attached.

8. CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

ARMSTRONG, WESTERMAN, HATTORI
McLELAND & NAUGHTON
1725 K Street, N.W. Suite 1000
Washington, D.C. 20006
Telephone: (202) 659-2930
Facsimile: (202) 887-0357

SUBMITTED BY

Typed or Printed Name **Mel R. Quintos** Reg. No. **31,898**

Signature  Date: **October 26, 2000**

MRQ/yap

SPECIFICATION

SHOCK ABSORBING APPARATUS
FOR INTERNAL COMPONENT
ASSEMBLED WITHIN ELECTRONIC APPARATUS

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention:

The present invention relates to a portable electronic apparatus such as a notebook personal computer, a personal digital assistant (PDA), and the like. In particular, the invention relates to an electronic apparatus comprising: an enclosure; an internal component, such as a hard disk drive (HDD), contained within the enclosure; and a shock absorbing unit attached to the internal component.

Description of the Prior Art:

In general, a notebook personal computer includes a shock absorbing member sandwiched between an internal component, namely, a built-in HDD and the inside surface of the wall defining an internal space for accommodating the built-in HDD, as disclosed in Japanese Patent Application Laid-open No. 11-242881. The shock absorbing member serves to absorb an impact acting on the external housing of the notebook personal computer. The built-in HDD can thus be protected from the impact.

In the aforementioned Laid-open No. 11-242881, the shock absorbing member is adhered directly on the wall defining the internal space for the built-in HDD. Accordingly, when the shock absorbing member is to be exchanged, it is troublesome to remove the old shock absorbing member from the wall and to restore the clean surface of the wall, for example, by removing

an adhesive remaining on the wall.

As shown in Japanese Patent Application Laid-open No. 11-177261, the shock absorbing member may be separated from the external housing of the electronic apparatus and the built-in HDD, respectively. Such separation is supposed to eliminate the aforementioned troublesome operations at the exchange of the shock absorbing members. In this case, the shock absorbing member comprises a pair of halves sandwiching the built-in HDD. The built-in HDD should be kept between the unsteady halves when it is installed between the external housing and the cover. Accordingly, it is very troublesome to exchange the built-in HDDs although the exchange of the shock absorbing members can be effected in a facilitated manner as compared with the art disclosed in the aforementioned Laid-open No. 11-242881.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is accordingly an object of the present invention to provide a shock absorbing apparatus for an internal component designed to be installed in an electronic apparatus, capable of contributing to an efficient and facilitated operation in exchanging a shock absorbing member and the internal component.

According to a first aspect of the present invention, there is provided an electronic apparatus comprising: an enclosure; an internal component; a fixation member stationary on the internal component; an erect plate continuously extending from the fixation member so as to stand on an outer surface of the internal component; a shock absorbing member disposed on front and back sides of the erect plate; a receiving section disposed in an internal space within the enclosure so as to receive the shock absorbing member on the back side of the erect plate; and a holder member disposed on the shock

absorbing member on the front side of the erect plate so as to hold the erect plate as well as the shock absorbing member between the receiving section and the holder member itself. The shock absorbing member may be an elastic thin piece or leaf in the electronic apparatus. Moreover, the fixation member may be detachably attached to the internal component.

Otherwise, according to a second aspect of the present invention, there is provided an electronic apparatus comprising: an enclosure; an internal component received within an internal space defined in the enclosure; a fixation plate superposed and detachably fixed on the outer surface of the internal component; an erect plate continuous from the fixation plate so as to stand on the outer surface of the internal component; a pair of elastic leaves superposed and adhered on front and back sides of the erect plate; a stationary support disposed in the internal space so as to receive the elastic leaf on the back side of the erect plate; and a holder member disposed on the elastic leaf on the front side of the erect plate so as to hold the erect plate as well as the elastic leaves between the stationary support and the holder member itself.

A combination of the internal component, the fixation plate, the erect plate and the elastic leaves is allowed to establish an internal component assembly or unit in the electronic apparatus of this type, for example. The holder member serves to hold the internal component assembly within the internal space of the enclosure. When an impact acts on the enclosure, the impact can reliably be absorbed at the elastic leaves before the impact is transmitted to the internal component, the fixation plate and the erect plate from the holder member and the stationary support. Accordingly, the internal component can be protected or separated from the impact

or vibration. Moreover, the internal component assembly as a whole can be handled in a facilitated manner as compared with the case where the internal component, the fixation plate and the erect plate are separately handled.

In addition, a combination of the fixation plate, the erect plate and the elastic leaves is also allowed to establish a shock absorbing unit in the electronic apparatus. Such a shock absorbing unit can be attached to or detached from the internal component as a whole in a relatively facilitated manner. Accordingly, the operation can be facilitated in exchange or replacement of the internal component. When the elastic leaves are to be replaced with new ones because of the deterioration and/or the damage of the elastic leaves, the shock absorbing unit as a whole may be replaced with a new one without unsticking the elastic leaves from the erect plate. It is possible to eliminate a troublesome operation including wiping an adhesive remaining on the surface of the enclosure, for example. The replacement of the internal component and/or the shock absorbing member such as the elastic leaves can be facilitated in this manner.

In particular, the aforementioned shock absorbing unit may be employed to protect an internal or built-in hard disk drive (HDD) within a notebook personal computer, for example. The shock absorbing units are attached to the outer surface of the HDD so as to hold the HDD therebetween. The erect plates of the respective shock absorbing units may stand on the outer surface of the HDD in an upright attitude, for example. In this case, it is preferable that the total thickness of the erect plate and the elastic leaves on the erect plate is set smaller than the thickness of the HDD. Such a smaller thickness enables a reliable shock absorption without an increase in the thickness

of the HDD. It should be noted that the shock absorbing unit can be employed to protect any type of an internal component in addition to the aforementioned HDD within the enclosure of the electronic apparatus such as a computer.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The above and other objects, features and advantages of the present invention will become apparent from the following description of the preferred embodiments in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view schematically illustrating a notebook personal computer;

Fig. 2 is a partial enlarged sectional view illustrating an internal space defined within an enclosure of a system unit;

Fig. 3 is a perspective view schematically illustrating the back surface of the notebook personal computer;

Fig. 4 is an exploded view illustrating the enclosure, a hard disk drive (HDD) assembly and a diskette drive (FDD);

Fig. 5 is an exploded view illustrating the HDD assembly;

Fig. 6 is a perspective view of the HDD assembly for schematically illustrating a shock absorbing unit according to another embodiment; and

Fig. 7 is a perspective view of the HDD assembly for schematically illustrating a shock absorbing unit according to further embodiment.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Fig. 1 schematically illustrates a notebook personal computer 11 as an electronic apparatus. The notebook personal computer 11 includes a system unit 12 containing a motherboard, not shown, for example, and a display housing 13 hinged to the

system unit 12. A liquid crystal display (LCD) panel unit 14 is installed within the display housing 13.

A central processing unit (CPU) and a memory chip are, for example, mounted on the motherboard. When the CPU operates, the motherboard controls input devices such as a keyboard 15 (keys are not shown) and a pointing device 16 as well as peripheral devices such as a diskette drive (FDD) 17 and a compact disk drive (CDD) 18 installed within the system unit 12. The result of the processing can be displayed on the screen of the LCD panel unit 14.

The FDD 17 is built in an enclosure 19 of the system unit 12. A slot 22 is defined in the front of the FDD 17 at the side face of the enclosure 19 so as to receive a diskette (FD) 21. The diskette 21 can be introduced into the FDD 17 through the slot 22 in the attitude upright to the side face of the enclosure 19.

As shown in Fig. 2, an internal space 23 can be defined in the enclosure 19 of the system unit 12. The internal space 23 opens at the back surface of the system unit 12. Specifically, when the system unit 12 is placed on a desk for manipulation of the notebook personal computer 11, the opening of the internal space 23 is opposed to the top surface of the desk. The internal space 23 is designed to receive the aforementioned FDD 17 and a hard disk drive (HDD) assembly 24 as an internal component assembly. The FDD 17 closes the opening of the internal space 23. When the FDD 17 is assembled into the internal space 23 in this manner, the bottom surface of the FDD 17 constitutes the back surface of the system unit 12, as shown in Fig. 3.

Referring again to Fig. 2, the HDD assembly 24 includes a hard disk drive (HDD) 25 as an internal or built-in component

for the notebook personal computer 11. The HDD 25 includes at least a recording medium or magnetic disk, not shown, extending in a plane along the horizontal direction HR, and a magnetic head, not shown, designed to face each of the front and back surfaces of the magnetic disk, as conventionally known, for example. A pair of shock absorbing units 26 are detachably attached to the HDD 25 at the opposite sides in the horizontal direction HR. The shock absorbing unit 26 functions as a shock absorbing apparatus of the invention.

Referring also to Fig. 4, the shock absorbing units 26 include fixation members such as fixation plates 27 superposed on the outer surface of the HDD 25 at the opposite sides in the horizontal direction HR, respectively. A connecting mechanism such as a pair of front and rear screws 28 serves to detachably fix the fixation plate 27 on the side surface of the HDD 25. The fixation plate 27 may extend along the side surface of the HDD 25. The side surface of the HDD 25 may extend in a plane perpendicular to the horizontal direction HR along the specific back-and-forth direction, for example.

A pair of front and rear erect plates 29 continuously extend from the fixation plate 27 so as to stand on the outer surface of the HDD 25. The erect plate 29 may extend in the horizontal direction HR from the opposite side surfaces of the HDD 25. Specifically, the erect plate 29 may be kept in the attitude upright to the side surface of the HDD 25. The front and rear erect plates 29 and the fixation plate 27 can be shaped out of a single metallic plate punched out of a metallic plate material, for example. The punched-out metallic plate may be bent so as to form the erect plates 29 continuous to the fixation plate 27.

Shock absorbing members are disposed on the front and back

PCT/EP2009/000350

sides of the respective erect plate 29. The shock absorbing members include rectangular elastic thin pieces or leaves 31a, 31b superposed on the front and back sides of the erect plate 29, respectively. The elastic leaves 31a, 31b may be adhered to the erect plate 29. The shock absorbing members may additionally include rectangular elastic thin pieces or leaves 31c superposed on the surface of the fixation plate 27 at front and rear positions, respectively. The elastic leaves 31c may likewise be adhered to the fixation plate 27. The elastic leaves 31a-31c can be cut off from a large-sized elastic sheet. For example, if an existing cheap material such as a Sorbothane®, distributed from Sorbothane, Inc., is employed as the large-sized elastic sheet, it is possible to remarkably reduce the production cost of the elastic leaves 31a-31c. In addition, employment of such an existing material leads to a facilitated method of production as compared with the case where original elastic leaves or members are to be designed. Efficiency can be improved in production. The elastic leaves 31a-31c are only designed to have an appropriate shock absorption and/or an appropriate vibration isolation.

Receiving sections such as stationary supports or bases 32 are disposed in the internal space 23 for receiving the respective elastic leaves 31b on the back sides of the front and rear erect plates 29. The stationary support 32 may be defined or integrally formed on the top or ceiling surface 23a of the internal space 23. On the other hand, holder members 33 are disposed to contact the respective elastic leaves 31a on the front sides of the front and rear erect plates 29. The holder members 33 are at least restrained from a relative movement to the corresponding stationary supports 32. A connecting mechanism such as a pair of front and rear screws

34 serves to detachably fix the holder members 33 on the top surface 23a of the internal space 23, for example.

The holder member 33 includes a first horizontal plate 35 opposed to the stationary support 32 so as to hold the erect plate 29 as well as the elastic leaves 31a, 31b on the front and back sides of the erect plate 29 between the stationary support 32 and the first horizontal plate 35 itself, and a second horizontal plate 36 extending in parallel with the first horizontal plate 35 at a position spaced from the first horizontal plate 35. A vertical plate 37 serves to connect the first and second horizontal plates 35, 36 to each other. When the HDD assembly 24 is held between the holder members 33 in the horizontal direction HR, the elastic leaves 31c on the fixation plates 27 are received on the respective vertical plate 37. Specifically, a pair of the vertical plates 37 are designed to urge against each other through the HDD 25, the fixation plates 27 and the elastic leaves 31c adhered on the respective fixation plates 27. The first and second horizontal plates 35, 36 and the vertical plates 37 can be shaped out of a single metallic plate punched out of a metallic plate material, for example. The first and second horizontal plates 35, 36 may be formed by bending corresponding shaped portions continuous to the vertical plate 37. If the first and second horizontal plates 35, 36 are formed to shape the holder member 33 into a symmetry around a specific rotation axis, as shown in Fig. 4, any of the first and second horizontal plates 35, 36 can be employed to hold the erect plates 29 against the stationary support 32 in the aforementioned manner. An operator or worker is released from a failure, caused by a wrong orientation of the holder member 33, in attaching the holder member 33. The holder member 33 can smoothly and efficiently be handled.

The shock absorbing unit 26 serves to keep a set of rigid members of the HDD assembly 24, including the HDD 25, the fixation plates 27 and the erect plates 29, spaced from the enclosure 19, the FDD 17, and other rigid structure within the enclosure 19, except the elastic leaves 31a-31c. Even if a strong impact acts on the enclosure 19 of the system unit 12 in the vertical direction VR, for example, the impact can reliably be absorbed at the elastic leaves 31a, 31b, respectively. The HDD 25 can be protected or separated from the impact. This type of the impact may be caused when the notebook personal computer 11 is roughly placed on the desk, for example. On the other hand, even if a strong impact acts on the enclosure 19 of the system unit 12 in the horizontal direction HR, the impact can be absorbed at the elastic leaves 31c. The HDD 25 can again be protected or separated from the impact.

In general, the HDD 25 includes the magnetic head supported on the elastic suspension which has an elasticity in the vertical direction VR larger than that in the horizontal direction HR. When the HDD 25 suffers from an impact in the vertical direction VR, the magnetic head easily tends to collide against the surface of the magnetic disk. If the shock absorbing unit 26 is provided with a larger capability in shock absorption in the vertical direction VR rather than the horizontal direction HR in the aforementioned manner, it is possible to reliably prevent generation of any scar or damage due to collision between the magnetic head and the magnetic disk.

In particular, the total thickness D1 of the erect plate 29 and the elastic leaves 31a, 31b on the front and back sides of the erect plate 29 is preferably set smaller than the

thickness D_2 of the HDD 25. The smaller thickness D_1 enables a reliable shock absorption without an increase in the thickness D_2 of the HDD 25. The smaller thickness D_1 is supposed to greatly contribute to reduction in the thickness of the enclosure 19 of the system unit 12.

Assume that the HDD 25 is to be exchanged in the notebook personal computer 11. The exchange can in general be utilized to update the performance of the HDD 25. Specifically, the old HDD 25 can be replaced with an HDD of a larger storage capacity. Otherwise, the old HDD 25 can be replaced with an HDD of a faster rotation velocity or data transfer rate.

First of all, a worker removes the FDD 17 out of the enclosure 19, as shown in Fig. 4. The removal of the FDD 17 allows access to the HDD assembly 24 through the opening of the internal space 23 at the back surface of the system unit 12. The HDD assembly 24 is exposed at the back surface of the system unit 12. When the screws 34 are released, the HDD assembly 24 can be removed out of the enclosure 19 along with the holder members 33.

Thereafter, when the screws 28 are released, the shock absorbing units 26 can be detached or separated from the HDD 25, as shown in Fig. 5, for example. The shock absorbing units 26 are then attached on a new HDD 25. The thus constructed HDD assembly 24 is subsequently inserted into the internal space 23 defined within the enclosure 19. It should be noted that the HDD assembly 24, including the HDD 25 and the attached shock absorbing units 26, can be replaced as a whole with a new HDD assembly, without detaching the shock absorbing units 26 from the HDD 25.

Now, assume that the elastic leaves 31a-31c are to be replaced with new ones because of the deterioration and/or the

damage of the elastic leaves 31a-31c. The HDD assembly 24 is likewise removed out of the enclosure 19. In this case, the overall shock absorbing unit 26, including the fixation plate 27 and the erect plates 19, may be replaced with a new one without unsticking the elastic leaves 31a-31c from the fixation plate 27 and the erect plates 29. Accordingly, it is possible to eliminate a troublesome operation including wiping an adhesive remaining on the surface of the enclosure 19, for example. The replacement of the shock absorbing member can be facilitated.

As shown in Fig. 6, a shock absorption may be established in the erect plates 29, in addition to the shock absorption at the aforementioned elastic leaves 31a-31c. In this case, the erect plate 29 includes an elongated plate portion 41 extending in the back-and-forth direction supporting pairs of elastic leaves 31a, 31b at front and rear positions, respectively, and a connecting piece 42 extending from the fixation plate 27 to the elongated plate portion 41 at the intermediate position of the elongated plate portion 41 in the back-and-forth direction. The elongated plate portion 41 may be made of a metallic plate having an elasticity to some extent. When the elongated plate portion 41 is held at the front and rear ends between the stationary supports 32 and the holder members 33, the elongated plate portion 41 is allowed to elastically deform at the central section in the back-and-forth direction to some extent. Such an elastic deformation serves to absorb a larger impact in the respective shock absorbing units 26 as compared with the case where the aforementioned elastic leaves 31a-31c are solely employed. It should be noted that the fixation and erect plates 27, 29 are shaped out of a single metallic plate punched out of a metallic plate material, for example.

In addition, a heat radiation plate 43 may extend from

the fixation plate 27 along the outer surface of the HDD 25 so as to reach a heated region of the HDD 25, in the shock absorbing unit 26, as shown in Fig. 7. The heat radiation plates 43 serve to accelerate radiation of heat generated at the heated region, so that rise in temperature can be restrained to the utmost around the heated region. It should be noted that the fixation, erect and heat radiation plates 27, 29, 43 can be shaped out of a single metallic plate punched out of a metallic plate material, for example.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An electronic apparatus comprising:
an enclosure;
an internal component;
a fixation member stationary on the internal component;
an erect plate continuously extending from the fixation member so as to stand on an outer surface of the internal component;

a shock absorbing member disposed on front and back sides of the erect plate;

a receiving section disposed in an internal space within the enclosure so as to receive the shock absorbing member on the back side of the erect plate; and

a holder member disposed on the shock absorbing member on the front side of the erect plate so as to hold the erect plate as well as the shock absorbing member between the receiving section and the holder member itself.

2. The electronic apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said shock absorbing member is an elastic thin piece.

3. The electronic apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said fixation member is detachably attached to the internal component.

4. An internal component assembly comprising:
an internal component for an electronic apparatus;
a fixation member stationary on the internal component;
an erect plate continuously extending from the fixation member so as to stand on an outer surface of the internal component; and

a shock absorbing member disposed on front and back sides of the erect plate.

5. The internal component assembly according to claim 4, wherein said shock absorbing member is an elastic thin piece.

6. The internal component assembly according to claim 4, wherein said fixation member is detachably attached to the internal component.

7. A shock absorbing apparatus comprising:

a fixation member stationary on an internal component designed to be installed in an electronic apparatus;

an erect plate continuously extending from the fixation member so as to stand on an outer surface of the internal component; and

a shock absorbing member disposed on front and back sides of the erect plate.

8. The shock absorbing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said shock absorbing member is an elastic thin piece.

9. The shock absorbing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said fixation member is detachably attached to the internal component.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A shock absorbing unit includes a fixation plate superposed and detachably fixed on the outer surface of an internal component. An erect plate continuously extends from the fixation plate so as to stand on the outer surface of the internal component. A pair of elastic leaves are superposed and adhered on front and back sides of the erect plate. The elastic leaves serve to absorb an impact or vibration. The internal component can be protected or separated from the impact or vibration. Moreover, the shock absorbing unit can be attached to or detached from the internal component as a whole in a relatively facilitated manner. When the elastic leaves are to be replaced with new ones, the shock absorbing unit as a whole may be replaced with a new one without unsticking the elastic leaves from the erect plate.

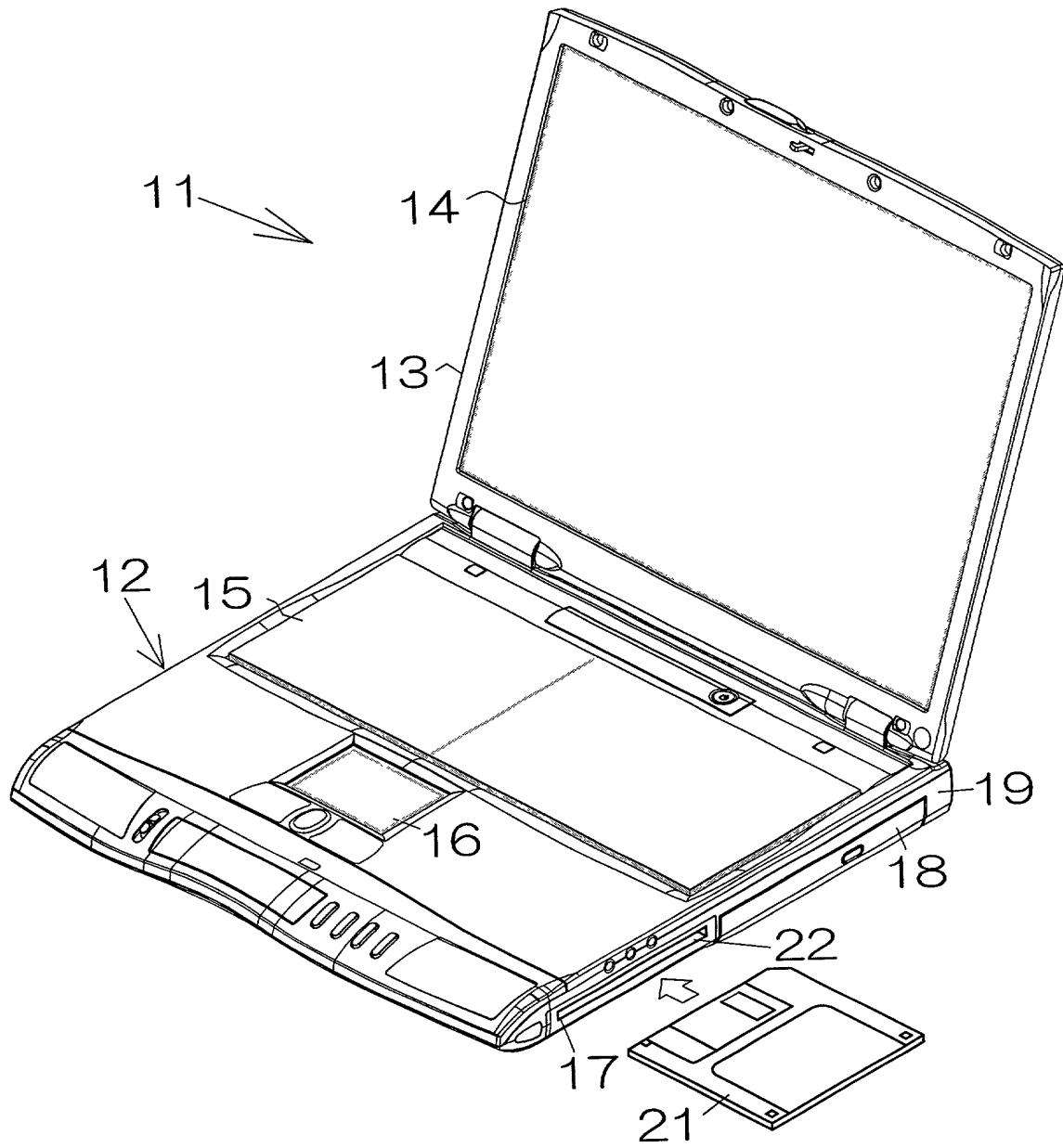


FIG. 1

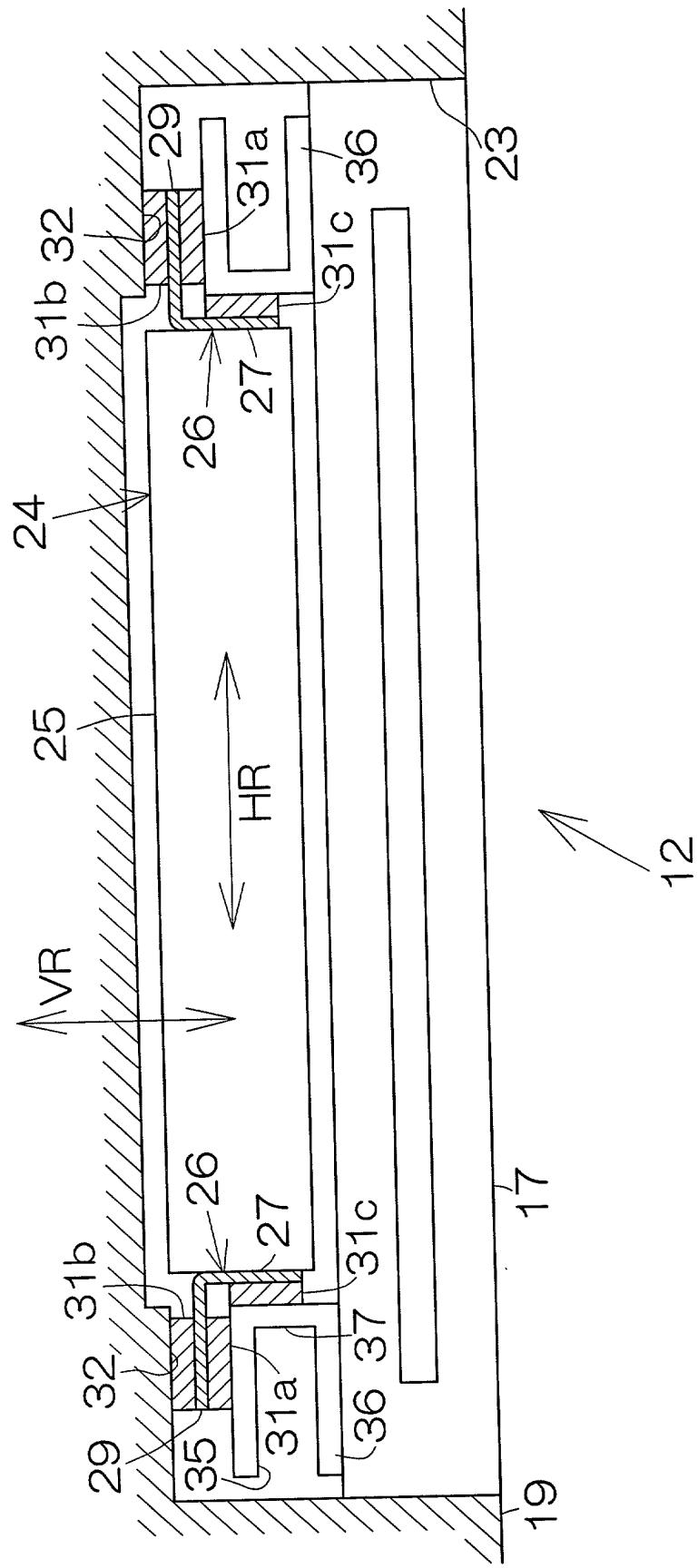


FIG. 2

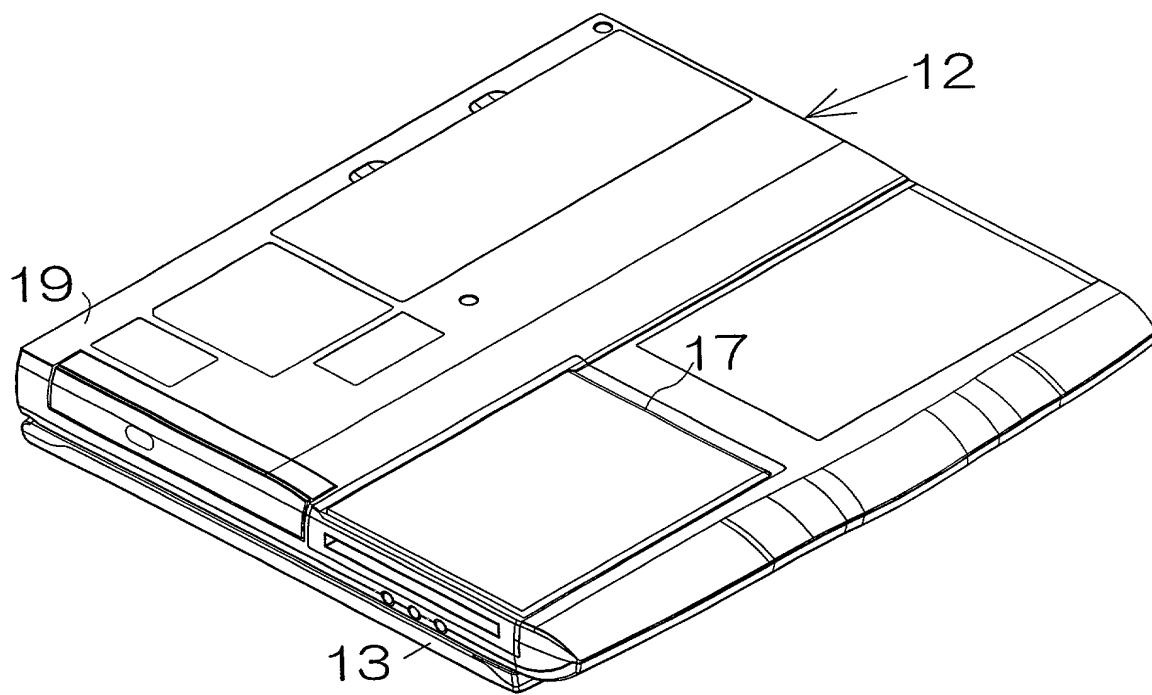
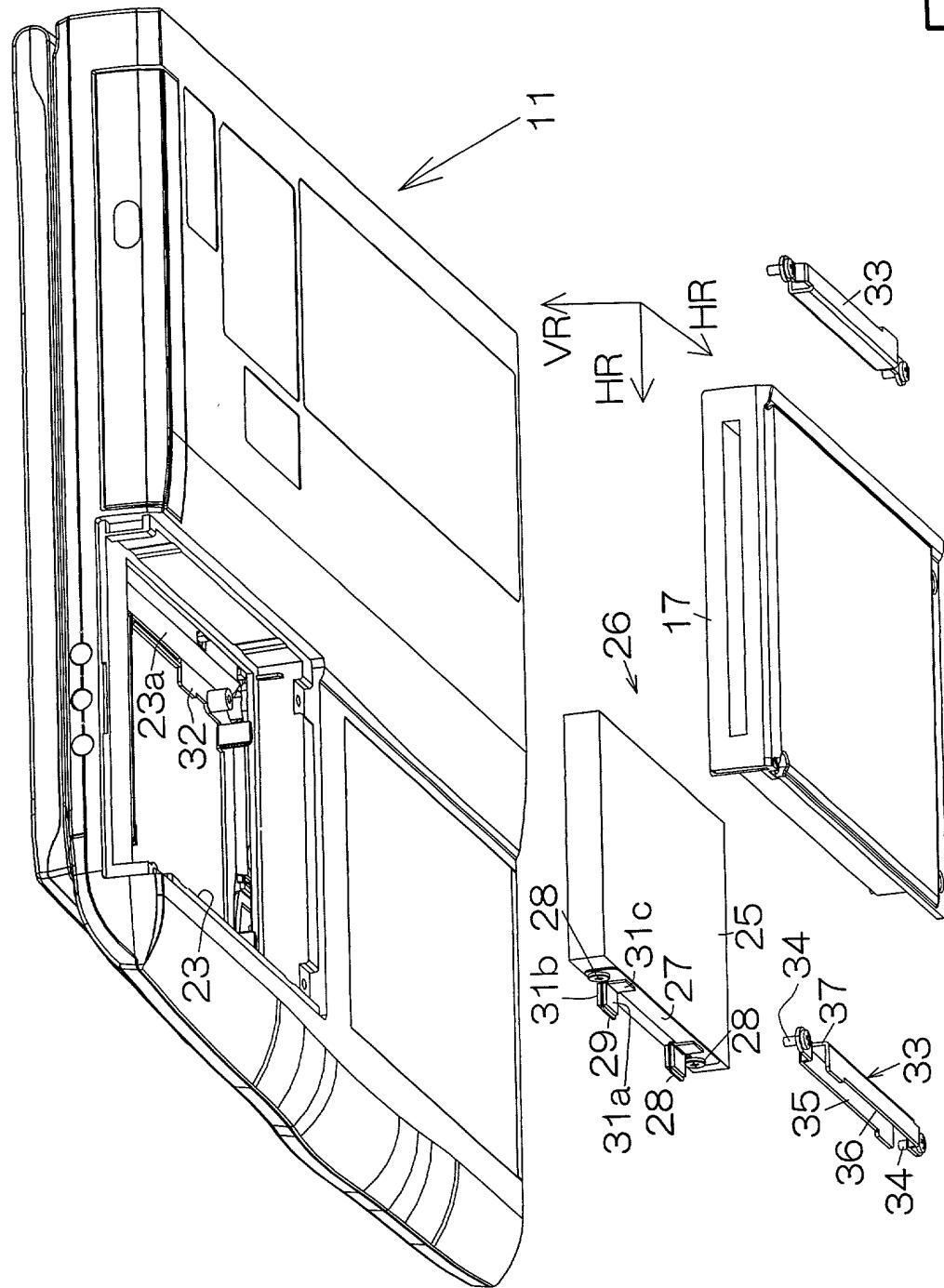


FIG.3

FIG.4



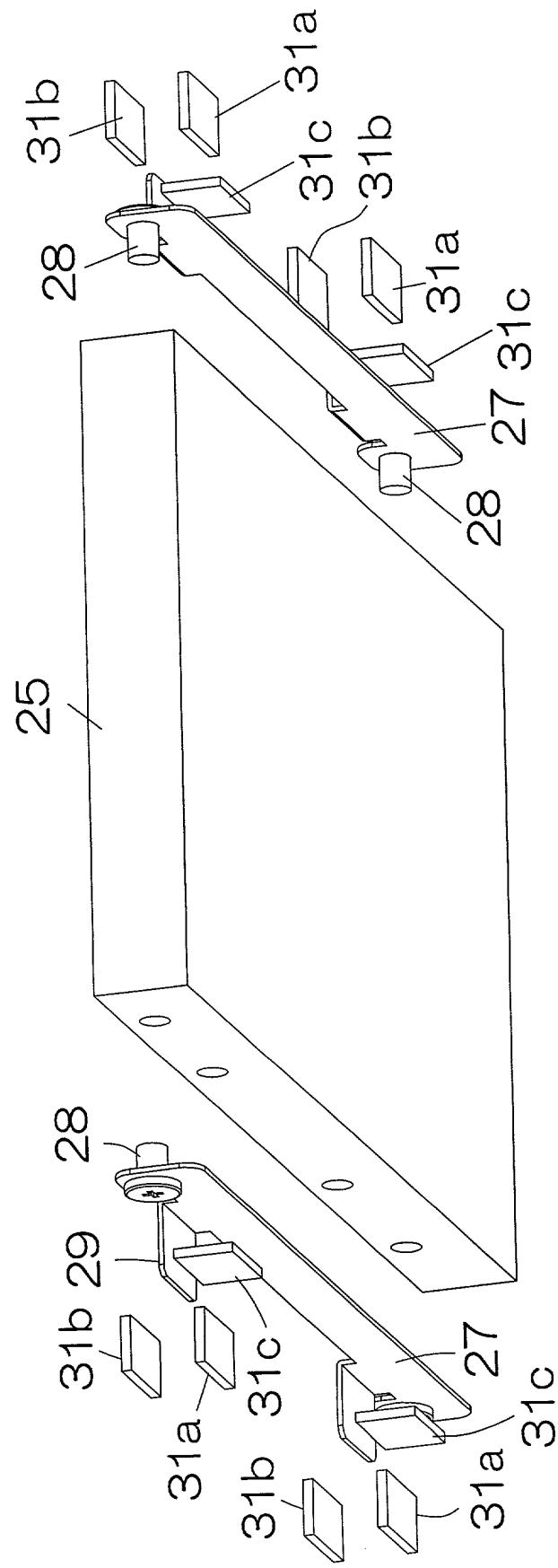


FIG. 5

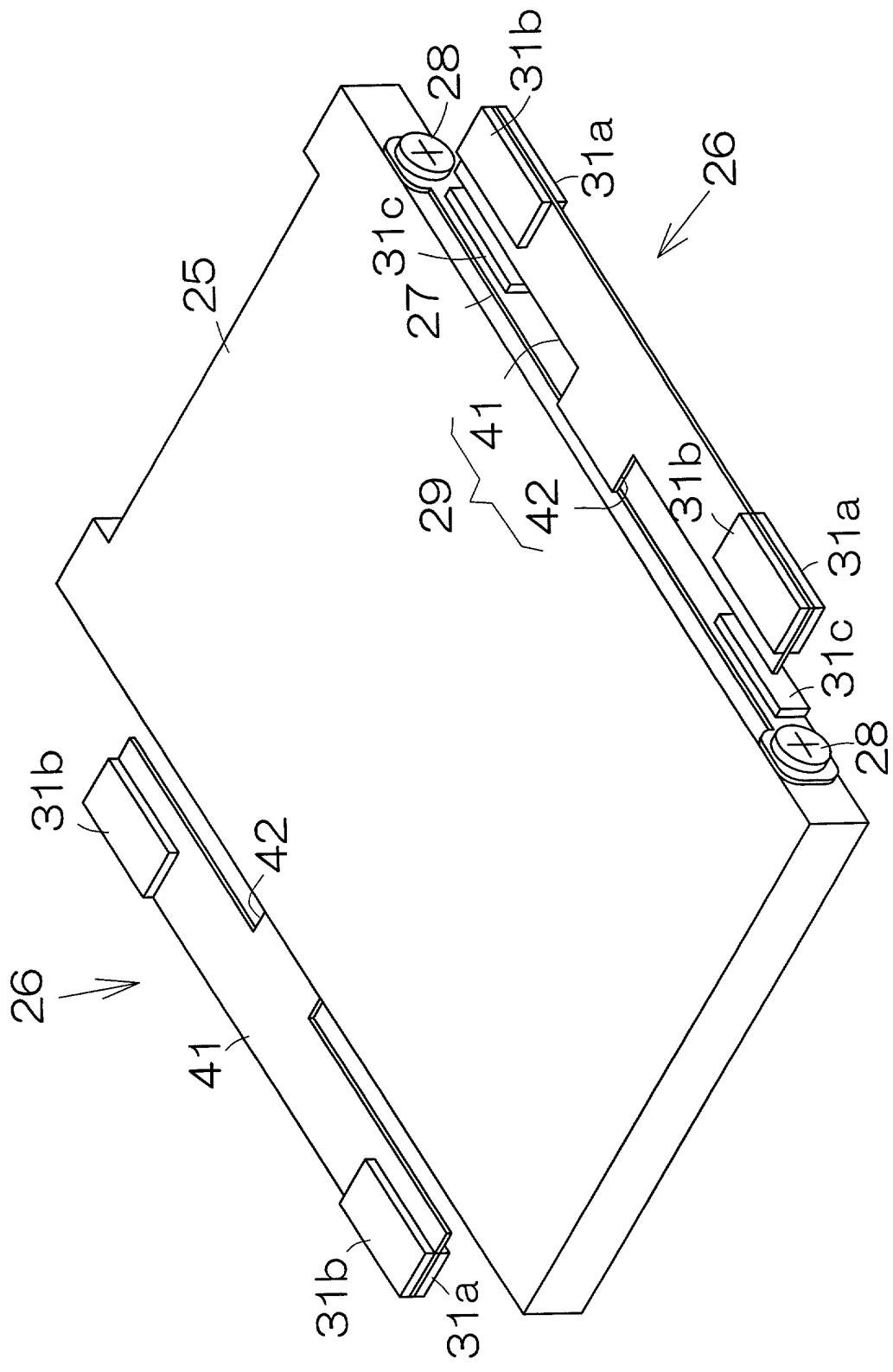


FIG. 6

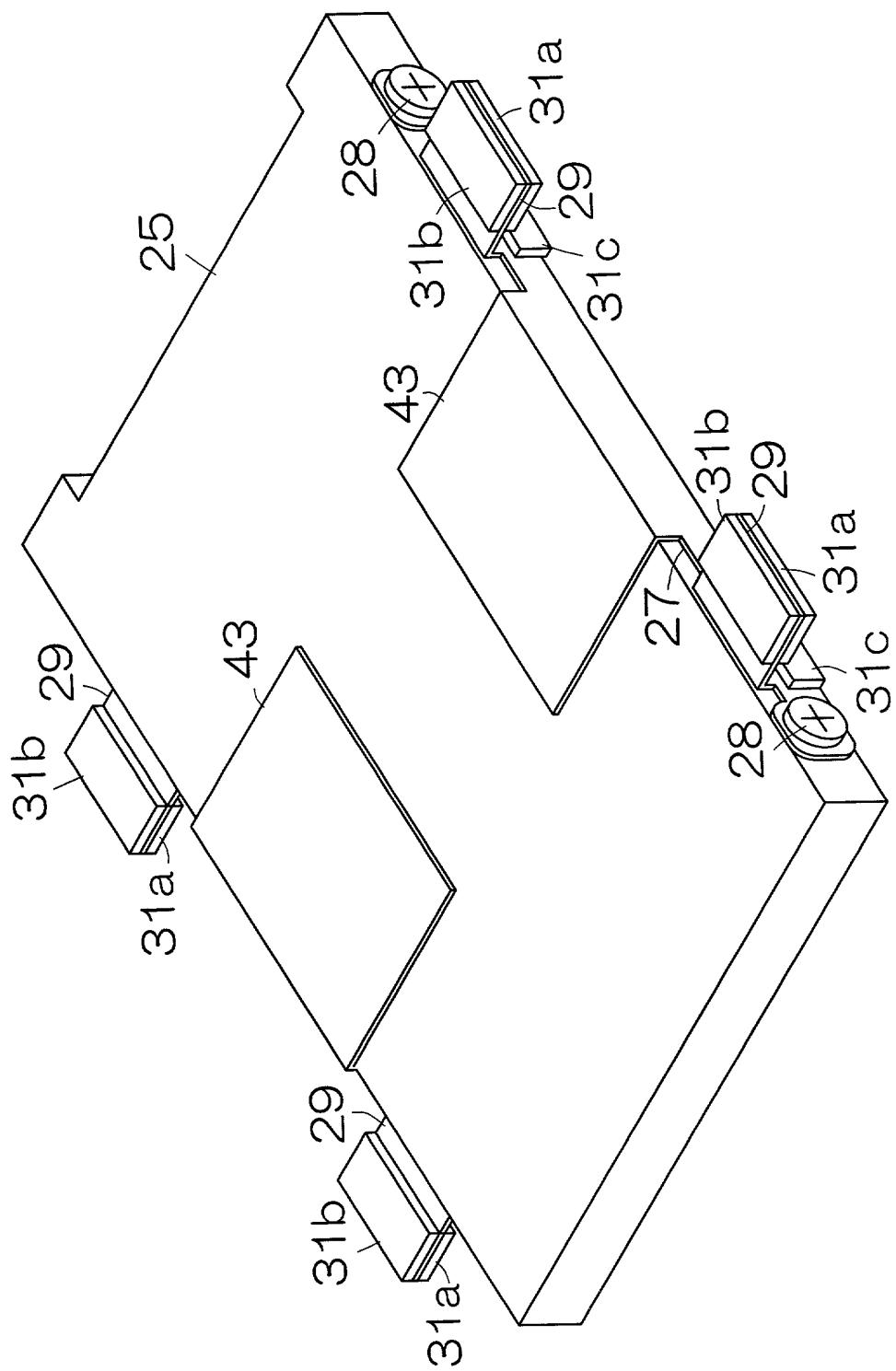


FIG. 1

Declaration and Power of Attorney for U.S. Patent Application

特許出願宣言書及び委任状

Japanese Language Declaration

日本語宣言書

下記の氏名の発明者として、私は以下の通り宣言します。 As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

私の住所、私書箱、国籍は下記の私の氏名の後に記載された通りです。

下記の名称の発明に関して請求範囲に記載され、特許出願している発明内容について、私が最初かつ唯一の発明者（下記の氏名が一つの場合）もしくは最初かつ共同発明者であると（下記の名称が複数の場合）信じています。

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled
Shock Absorbing Apparatus
For Internal Component Assembled
Within Electronic Apparatus

上記発明の明細書（下記の欄でx印がついていない場合は、本書に添付）は、

the specification of which is attached hereto unless the following box is checked:

二月一日に提出され、米国出願番号または特許協定条約
国際出願番号を _____ とし、
(該当する場合) _____ に訂正されました。

was filed on _____
as United States Application Number or
PCT International Application Number
and was amended on
_____ (if applicable).

私は、特許請求範囲を含む上記訂正後の明細書を検討し、
内容を理解していることをここに表明します。I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of
the above identified specification, including the claims, as
amended by any amendment referred to above.私は、連邦規則法典第37編第1条56項に定義されると
おり、特許資格の有無について重要な情報を開示する義務が
あることを認めます。I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to
patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations,
Section 1.56.

Japanese Language Declaration
(日本語宣言書)

私は、米国法典第35編119条(a)-(d)項又は365条(b)項に基づき下記の、米国以外の国の少なくとも一ヵ国を指定している特許協力条約365(a)項に基づく国際出願、又は外国での特許出願もしくは発明者証の出願についての外国優先権をここに主張するとともに、優先権を主張している。本出願の前に出願された特許または発明者証の外国出願を以下に、枠内をマークすることで、示しています。

Prior Foreign Application(s)

外国での先行出願

2000-94900

(Number)
(番号)

Japan

(Country)
(国名)

(Number)
(番号)

(Country)
(国名)

私は、第35編米国法典119条(e)項に基いて下記の米国特許出願規定に記載された権利をここに主張いたします。

(Application No.)
(出願番号)

(Filing Date)
(出願日)

私は、下記の米国法典第35編120条に基いて下記の米国特許出願に記載された権利、又は米国を指定している特許協力条約365条(c)に基づく権利をここに主張します。また、本出願の各請求範囲の内容が米国法典第35編112条第1項又は特許協力条約で規定された方法で先行する米国特許出願に開示されていない限り、その先行米国出願書提出日以降で本出願書の日本国内または特許協力条約国提出日までの期間中に入手された、連邦規則法典第37編1条56項で定義された特許資格の有無に関する重要な情報について開示義務があることを認識しています。

(Application No.)
(出願番号)

(Filing Date)
(出願日)

(Application No.)
(出願番号)

(Filing Date)
(出願日)

私は、私自身の知識に基づいて本宣言書中で私が行なう表明が真実であり、かつ私の入手した情報と私の信じるところに基づく表明が全て真実であると信じていること、さらに故意になされた虚偽の表明及びそれと同様の行為は米国法典第18編第1001条に基づき、罰金または拘禁、もしくはその両方により処罰されること、そしてそのような故意による虚偽の声明を行なえば、出願した、又は既に許可された特許の有効性が失われることを認識し、よってここに上記のごとく宣誓を致します。

I hereby claim foreign priority under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119 (a)-(d) or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or 365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Priority Not Claimed

優先権主張なし

30/3/2000

(Day/Month/Year Filed)
(出願年月日)

(Day/Month/Year Filed)
(出願年月日)

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

(Application No.)
(出願番号)

(Filing Date)
(出願日)

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 120 of any United States application(s), or 365(c) of any PCT International application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT International filing date of application.

(Status: Patented, Pending, Abandoned)
(現況: 特許許可済、係属中、放棄済)

(Status: Patented, Pending, Abandoned)
(現況: 特許許可済、係属中、放棄済)

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Japanese Language Declaration
(日本語宣言書)

委任状： 私は下記の発明者として、本出願に関する一切の手続きを米特許商標局に対して遂行する弁理士または代理人として、下記の者を指名いたします。（弁護士、または代理人の氏名及び登録番号を明記のこと）

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith (list name and registration number)
See list of attorneys and/or agents on page 5.

書類送付先

Send Correspondence to:

ARMSTRONG, WESTERMAN, HATTORI,
MCLELAND & NAUGHTON
1725 K Street, N.W., Suite 1000
Washington, D.C. 20006

直接電話連絡先：（名前及び電話番号）

Direct Telephone Calls to: (name and telephone number)

Telephone: (202) 659-2930 Fax: (202) 887-0357

唯一または第一発明者名		Full name of sole or first inventor	
		Wataru Tanaka	
発明者の署名	日付	Inventor's signature	Wataru Tanaka Date 3/10/2000
住所	Residence Kawasaki, Japan		
国籍	Citizenship Japan		
私書箱	Post Office Address c/o Fujitsu Limited 1-1, Kamikodanaka 4-chome Nakahara-ku, Kawasaki-shi Kanagawa 211-8588 Japan		
第二共同発明者	Full name of second joint inventor, if any Ikki Tatsukami		
第二共同発明者	日付	Second inventor's signature	Date 3/10/2000
住所	Residence Kawasaki, Japan		
国籍	Citizenship Japan		
私書箱	Post Office Address c/o Fujitsu Limited 1-1, Kamikodanaka 4-chome Nakahara-ku, Kawasaki-shi Kanagawa 211-8588 Japan		

（第三以降の共同発明者についても同様に記載し、署名をすること）

(Supply similar information and signature for third and subsequent joint inventors.)

第三共同発明者		Full name of third joint inventor, if any	
		Takashi Iijima	
第三発明者の署名	日付	Third inventor's signature	Date
		Takashi Iijima 3/10/2000	
住所	Residence		
Kawasaki, Japan			
国籍	Citizenship		
Japan			
私書箱	Post Office Address		
c/o Fujitsu Limited			
1-1, Kamikodanaka 4-chome			
Nakahara-ku, Kawasaki-shi			
Kanagawa 211-8588 Japan			
第四共同発明者		Full name of fourth joint inventor, if any	
第四発明者の署名	日付	Fourth inventor's signature	Date
住所	Residence		
国籍	Citizenship		
私書箱	Post Office Address		
第五共同発明者		Full name of fifth joint inventor, if any	
第五発明者の署名	日付	Fifth inventor's signature	Date
住所	Residence		
国籍	Citizenship		
私書箱	Post Office Address		
第六共同発明者		Full name of sixth joint inventor, if any	
第六発明者の署名	日付	Sixth inventor's signature	Date
住所	Residence		
国籍	Citizenship		
私書箱	Post Office Address		

List of attorneys and/or agents

James E. Armstrong, III, Reg. No. 18,366; William F. Westerman, Reg. No. 29,988; Ken-Ichi Hattori, Reg. No. 32,861; Le-Nhung McLeland, Reg. No. 31,541; Ronald F. Naughton, Reg. No. 24,616; John R. Pegan, Reg. No. 18,069; William G. Kratz, Jr., Reg. No. 22,631; James P. Welch, Reg. No. 17,379; Albert Tockman, Reg. No. 19,722; Mel R. Quintos, Reg. No. 31,898; Donald W. Hanson, Reg. No. 27,133; Stephen G. Adrian, Reg. No. 32,878; William L. Brooks, Reg. No. 34,129; John F. Carney, Reg. No. 20,276; Edward F. Welsh, Reg. No. 22,455; Patrick D. Muir, Reg. No. 37,403; Gay A. Spahn, Reg. No. 34,978; John P. Kong, Reg. No. 40,054; and Luke A. Kilyk, Reg. No. 33,251.